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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents and Public School Academy Directors
of Schools Eligible for Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) Grants

FROM: Tom Watkins

DATE: January 11, 2005

RE: New and Continuation Comprehensive School Reform Grant
Competition Announcement

This memorandum is being sent to your district because you already have one or more schools in the second year of a Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) grant or you may have one or more schools that meet the eligibility requirements to apply for new CSR funding.

The CSR Program will provide approximately \$9,560,000 in funding for new and continuation grants for 2005-06. The State Board of Education approved the criteria for new CSR grants on October 12, 2004. Criteria for continuation grants were approved on November 18, 1999.

CSR is a federal reform initiative that focuses on the reorganization and revitalization of entire schools. The purpose of CSR is to provide financial incentives for high poverty schools to improve student achievement through the implementation of comprehensive school reform programs that are based on reliable research and effective practices.

To be eligible for a CSR competitive grant, a school must have a poverty concentration of at least 50 percent. Secondary schools may use the poverty percentage of their feeder schools. Approximately \$4,875,000 of the \$6,500,000 expected to be available for new grants will be awarded to schools that are eligible to participate in the Title I, Part A program, have a poverty level of 50 percent or more and are **identified in any phase (1-5) of school improvement** under the Title I legislation.

Approximately \$1,625,000 of the funds for new grants may be awarded to schools that meet the poverty criteria, but **are not identified for school improvement**.

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Continuation grants will be awarded to districts that demonstrate that they have made substantial progress toward meeting the objectives of their initial applications. It is anticipated that approximately \$3,060,000 will be used for continuation grants.

Application Information

Information regarding the CSR application process can be found on the Michigan Department of Education website at www.michigan.gov/mde. Click on *Programs and Offices* on the left, then click on *Field Services* on the left. CSR materials are in the *What's New* section.

Applications for new and continuing CSR grants will be completed and submitted using the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS). The application form is available in MEGS at <http://megs.mde.state.mi.us/megs/>. The deadline for the electronic submission of the application is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11, 2005.

An application technical assistance workshop is scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, February 1, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Michigan Library Auditorium
717 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48915

The workshop will provide information about the application process as well as the use of the MEGS system to submit the application. Information regarding CSR evaluation activities will also be provided at this time. Registration is not required.

Questions regarding the Comprehensive School Reform Program and this application process may be directed to James Candela, CSR Consultant, or to his assistant, Ruth Bowler, at 517-241-1162.

c: CSR Contact Person